

“Power And Glory”
Ephesians 3:20-21
Sermon Series: “Be Rich”

Introduction: Today we come to the end of the first half of Paul’s letter to the church at Ephesus as we finish up the doctrinal section of the letter. We are also focusing on the end of the prayer that we began looking at last week. Paul concludes his prayer with worship as theology leads to doxology. This prayer and praise is a transition from the doctrinal to the practical application. It is a fitting reminder of who God is, what He does for us, and the response that He deserves from us.

Main Idea: God’s power is working in us so He is receiving glory from us.

1. God’s power is working in us.

A. The Nature of His Power: It is the same power that raised Jesus from the dead, seated Him at the right hand of the Father, and made Him Head over everything for the benefit of the Church (Ephesians 1:19-24). It is mind-boggling that this is “the power that works in us.”

B. The Scope of His Power: Greek scholar Kenneth Wuest writes of this, “The first characterizes Him as One who is able to do *huper panta*, literally, ‘above all things,’ thus, ‘in a measure exceeding all things, beyond all things.’ The second speaks of Him as able to do *huperekperissou*. The word is made up of *perissos*, ‘exceeding some number or measure, over and above, more than necessary,’ *ek*, which is perfective in force here, intensifying the already existing idea in the verb, here adding the idea of exhaustlessness, and *huper*, ‘above.’ The compound word is a superlative of superlatives in force. It speaks of the ability of God to do something, that ability having more than enough potential power, this power exhaustless, and then some on top of that. Thus, Paul

says that God is able to do super-abundantly above and beyond what we ask or think, and then some on top of that.”

C. The Application of His Power:

-This power saves us. We are brought from death to life by the power of Jesus. We are blessed with every spiritual blessing in Jesus. Think about everything we have seen in chapters one and two that He has already DONE for us in Christ.

-This power internally transforms us. Paul calls it “the power that works in us.” He is referring to the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with God’s might in the inner person (v. 16). Wuest writes, “The power that is putting forth energy in us is the operation of the Holy Spirit in His work of sanctification. God is able to do for us and answer our prayers according to the efficiency, richness, and power of the working of the Spirit in our lives. This latter is determined by the yieldedness of the believer to the Holy Spirit...In His inherent ability, there is no limit to what God can do in and through the saint. But the saint limits the working of God in and through him by the degree of the yieldedness to the Spirit.”

-This power is working when we pray. Paul’s reference to “ask or think” shows that this relates to prayer. Paul prayed with the conviction that anything we ask for will never measure up to God’s capacity to answer. However, this does not mean that God will say yes to everything we ask for (Daniel 3:1-18) because He works according to His will and what is best for us.

2. God is receiving glory from us. God is glorious in His very nature. John Piper defines the glory of God as “the infinite beauty and greatness of God’s manifold perfections.” He is worthy of glory because of the cross. The ultimate purpose of salvation is the glory of God so the only possible means of salvation is the grace of God. The church is here to ascribe glory to God with our lives and lips (1 Corinthians 10:31, Psalm 29:2). The only proper response to the greatness of who God is, the grace that He has lavished upon us, and the power that works in us is worship. Glory to His Name!